

## 2600/7800 DEVELOPMENT KIT

### CARE AND PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

A. Full, complete 2600/7800 development kit(s) include the following:

#### HARDWARE:

HOST OR 1040ST COMPUTER (or Mega ST)  
520MB HARD DISK  
SP154 OR SP154 FLOPPY DISK (or equivalent)  
500MHz OR 600MHz MONITOR (or equivalent)  
7800 GAME MACHINE  
TRANSFER CABLE  
DEVELOPMENT RAM CARTRIDGE  
TELEVISION (not furnished by Atari)  
EPROM CARTRIDGE (for appropriate game system)

#### SOFTWARE:

##### DEVELOPMENT KIT DISK:

ACCOL.S (Sample source code for 40-column text display)  
ADM.BAT (Batch file for the batch utility)  
BATCH.TPP (Batch utility; executes programs in subtext files)  
CONV65.PRG (Converts .A file to 8-column format ".SA")  
DOWND.TPP (Downloads code to the 7800 and acts as terminal)  
EL.TPP ("Remote" - for inter-computer communication)  
MAC.PRG (cross-assembler)  
MARIA.S (Recommended 7800 source file)  
STELLA.S (Recommended 2600 source file)  
EL.TPP (Memory-Rescue editor)  
WAIT.PRG (Allows messages to remain on screen until 4080)  
HARD DISK BOOT DISK (comes with hard disk drive)  
DISKCOPY (DISKCOPY 1ST graphics program)  
SAMPLE SOURCE CODE (for the appropriate game system)

#### DOCUMENTATION FOR 2600 AND 7800 DEVELOPMENT:

##### ASSEMBLER MANUAL

##### EDITOR MANUAL

##### STELLA (2600) PROGRAMMER'S GUIDE

##### 2600 GAME STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

##### 7800 SUPER CART SPEC

##### 7800 PROGRAMMING GUIDE

##### DATA PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTIONS

##### FORMATTA 8 RECORDS FORMAT

##### 7800 GAME STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

##### NOTE FREQUENCIES FOR ATARI 2600/7800 SOUND SYSTEM

7800 BASIC/16K  
7800 BASIC/32K

DESCRIPTION OF 7800 "PRO" DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE (debugger version)

...AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE GENERATED FROM TIME TO TIME.

#### SETTING UP THE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM:

Set up the ST computer per its instructions.

Connect standard 7800 to power supply, attach 7800 to TV set.

Attach standard parallel transfer cable to parallel port of ST and to the 25-pin D connector on the development system cartridge.

Put the development system cartridge in the cartridge port (clip to the rear) and powerup the 7800.

Run BLOAD:TPF as the ST and if properly connected, you will see the sign-on message from the development system cartridge on your ST screen (another message is displayed on the TV screen).

And off you go!

#### SOME INFORMATION THAT WAS NEVER GIVEN IN ANY OF THE OTHER DOCUMENTATION:

How to use the right and left joystick buttons. (7800 games only):  
Initialize \$A000 with the following 4 instructions:

```
LDX #A14
STX $C10000
LDX #0
STA $A000
```

Read the first button from:

DPKT0	- player 0, right button (0=1 if pushed)
DPKT1	- player 0, left button (0=1 if pushed)
DPKT2	- player 1, right button (0=1 if pushed)

18903) = player 1, left button (if not pushed)

How to program for the 2600 on the 7600 Development System:

1. A 2600 "bank-in" must be performed before anything else and is accomplished by these 2 instructions:

```
LDX #FF00
STX SOD
```

2. Six 16k blocks of memory space ("banks" on the cartridge) are available for use by 2600 game developers. They are:

```
FF00-FFFF
F000-FFFF
E000-FFFF
D000-FFFF
C000-FFFF
B000-FFFF
```

Since 2600 cartridges have 1,2,4, or 8 banks of 16k each, only cartridges of up to 8 banks in size may be developed with this system. 8 bank cartridges will need the dedicated 2600 development system when it comes out. It is recommended that the F000-FFFF bank not be used during game development (except to store hardware pointers and to execute the 2600 boot-up described above) since 128 bytes at FF00-FFFF are dedicated to 2600 signature signatures & the development system requires this area for system code. F000-FFFF may be used, but it cannot be "locked" full of code as would be possible in the 2600 cartridge. Also, keep in mind that the development system does not simulate bank switching or SABA rom access precisely. Since the 7600 development system was not expressly designed to run in 2600 mode, some problems have been observed when it is used in 2600 mode. Most development system boards are tested to see how they perform in 2600 mode. Some work fine but others only allow load & go with no debugger communications since 2600 mode has been build-in. If the debugger fails to work once the 2600 program has been started (either no communications or no responses to legitimate debugger commands), you may have a board or basement (or combination thereof) which cannot tolerate 2600 mode. Try a different main-unit or different development system cart.

#### Summary of differences between dev system on 2600 & 2600 ROM cartridge

##### Development system on 2600:

1. Code in bank F000-FFFF must not reside at F000-FFFF
2. Bank switching timing can be minimized but other bank switching side-effects cannot

##### ROM cartridge:

1. Bank F000-FFFF may be used in the cartridge.
2. Bank switching must be used for access to other 16k blocks. Bank 0 code cannot access bank 1 data.

be directly observed. For example, code executing from bank 0 can access data from bank 1.

- 6800 bus accesses can be simulated provided that read & write accesses are in the same 128 byte block.
- The two instructions 2600 look-as code described above must precede all other code.

When attempted, this is usually quite evident as a bug.

data bus must be read at F000-F07F and written to at F000-F07F.

The two instruction 2600 look-as code is not necessary and uses 4 bytes of ROM that could be used otherwise.

Bank switching is used for 2600 cartridges larger than 64. When 64 was first designed (in the stone age of 1977), the 2600 base-unit brought only enough address lines out to the cartridge to address 64. Now that ROM has become so cheap, 2600 bank switching necessary to address larger carts. This is accomplished by reading a "magic" location. Basically, a LDA ABSOLUTE is executed followed by a JSR ABSOLUTE. A copy of these two instructions is found at the same offset in both the bank being switched to and the bank being switched from. In addition, at power-up, the programmer cannot assume which bank will get control first. All banks but vector RESET then proper bank switching code to the bank with the start-up code. The magic addresses to be read for bank switching purposes (when applicable) are:

cart. num.	1 bank	2 bank	4 bank	8 bank	
none	\$FFFF0	\$FFFF0	\$FFFF2	\$FFFF2	lowest bank #
	\$FFFF0	\$FFFF1	\$FFFF3		
		\$FFFF2	\$FFFF4		
		\$FFFF3	\$FFFF5		
		\$FFFF4	\$FFFF6		
		\$FFFF5	\$FFFF7		
		\$FFFF6	\$FFFF8		
		\$FFFF7	\$FFFF9		
					highest bank #
					↓

For more details, see sample source code.

Available PAL Colors: (8600).

0,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,0

Leave zero the others

conventions

1-2	6-6	11-7
2-4	7-6	12-8
3-6	8-8	13-5
4-8	9-9	14-5
5-8	10-10	15-4

Odd or even numbered scan lines may alter the colors to black and white. (2600 PAL conversion)

Some previously released 1600 cartridges used additional ROM provided on the cartridge itself. This has become prohibitively expensive and is not allowed for future game development. Exceptions will be made only if cleared in writing by Atari management first.

When sending EPROMS to Atari, the following information should be provided (on a 3/2" x 3/4" label, then does not cover up the printing on the EPROM):

GAME NAME (including system - may be abbreviated)  
DATE  
CHECKSUM  
BASIC #

For example: 1600 BALLBL- 2600 SOCC  
9/25/87 9/26/87  
E104 3000 NO  
BASIC#

The preferred form of game submission submission to Atari is sending the source code on floppy disk together with the .O files generated by Chet source. A .BAT file containing the command line for BLOAD TTF would be a convenience as well. Source code is mandatory for final submissions before game release.

If there are any questions regarding the use of the software or hardware, call John Ferguson at Atari: (408) 745-4923. He and engineer Jose "Bear-Nu-By" Valdes are also available through ComputerOne for 24-hour Q&A service (see ComputerOne booklet for details).

Dave Straight may also be reached for questions at: (408) 745-2267.

Description of the Atari 7800 "Type" Development System Upgrade  
Document revision date: 13-July-85

New Features (vs. previous development system):

- Downloads proceed up to 6 times faster than the previous development system.
- Programs to download need not be converted to .SR (Srecords) format via the COM805.PRG. Object files straight from the assembler (PAC.PRG .O files) may be used directly, saving the COM805.PRG step and increasing download speeds by a factor of 2. O files must be used if symbolic references are desired with the debugger.
- An on-board symbolic debugger is included with trace, go with break-point, list (disassembly), set (change memory), register change, and dump memory commands currently available.
- Communications between ST and 7800 base unit are accomplished via a new bi-directional parallel I/O port in the development cartridge making the joystick ports free on the base unit for, of all things, joysticks!
- Any production 7800 base unit may be used with the development system "cartridge" (as need to modify the base-unit ROM) since the development system cartridge ROM is encrypted to "pass" the encryption test of the base unit.
- Programs (whether single or multiple bank) may be loaded without use of a Load/Run switch since the development system cartridge manages memory automatically during download.
- New board has been designed especially for development systems use and will (hopefully) prove more reliable than the previous bludge-board.
- Checksum is computed for S-records after reading data back from ROM rather than simply adding up the data as received and then storing to RAM as was done with the previous system. A similar method is used with .O files except a 16-bit checksum is used to improve reliability detection.

Items you should have with this new Development System Upgrade:

1. Single board (large) cartridge with parallel port.
2. Parallel ribbon cable.
3. Stakeouts with DLOAD 779 program.

## Using the Development System Upgrade

To use the Atari 7800 "Pro" development system, simply plug the supplied 7800 development card into any 7800 base unit and connect the parallel cable between your ST computer's parallel port and the 7800 development card. Power-up the base unit and wait about 2 seconds ("Atari 7800" is displayed on TV screen while decryption is performed). The title screen with the 7800 slogan message should now be displayed. If your base unit has the old transfer program ROM, you will need to depress the 7800 reset button to start the new debug cartridge ROM.

Now, run **LOAD-TTF** on the ST. If an **.8B** file or **.D** file is to be downloaded, type it's name on the command line when invoking **LOAD-TTF**. If the file type is omitted, the process will first look for an **.D** file on the correct directory. If an **.D** is not found, an attempt will be made to load an **.8B** file. Multiple files of either type may be listed on the command line separated by spaces or commas, and they will be loaded in the order they appear there. Only **.D** files contain symbols that can be used with the symbolic debugger so this file type is preferable when debugging is to be performed. The type of download to be performed is determined by the file-type (**.D** or **.8B**) so be sure that the format of each file is identified by its proper **.D** or **.8B**.

For game programs that do not require multiple banks, bank zero will be used automatically and no relocating of B-records is necessary. Multiple bank programs will still require a separate assembly for each bank as with the old development system but no relocating is necessary. If you are loading **.D** files by symbols, the following two lines of "code" should be included in each source file (bank #3 example is shown):

```
MEMORY = 3 ;this equate tells LOAD-TTF to load in bank #3
EMPTY = MEMORY
```

Due to a quirk of **MADMAC** (the Atari cross-assembler), the symbol **MEMORY** will not be included on the **.D** file symbol table unless it is used as well as being defined. So, was it is another dummy equate to force it's inclusion into the symbol table. Another quirk of **MADMAC** that I have observed: symbols starting with uppercase "%" are not included in the **.D** file! Still another bug observed in **MADMAC**: If an entire page of \$202 memory is initialized to \$0, the assembler writes the page in the **.D** file entirely. The symbol **\$202000** (note the all uppercase) should not be used in any other way. If this symbol is not found, bank #0 will be assumed. If you prefer to use B-records, the way to switch banks is via a new **Brickend** type that is used expressly for bank switching. A summary of the three B-record types understood by the development system is as follows (blank spaces are added for clarity and should not be present in actual B-records):

Example	S-record description
S 1 23 8000 78 56 09 .... 7A	S Starting byte of every S-record 1 Record type 1 for download data 23 Byte count in hex (4000) 2 nibbles 56 Byte count in hex (4000) 2 nibbles 09 etc. is 32 bytes of download data 7A is the checksum byte when added to the data bytes. 2 address bytes and the byte count bytes should equal 8FF (ignoring overflows).
S 3 05	S Starting byte of every S-record 3 Record type 3 for switching banks 05 A switch to bank #5 is performed (no checksum needed)
S *	S Starting byte of every S-record * Record type 8 for terminating the download (This record is automatically appended after each download)

Once the file(s) have downloaded, LOAD TIP becomes a terminal of sorts that allows the programmer to inspect 1600 system RAM/RDH and debug his program. The prompt is a `TI3286 C:\>` indicating the debugger is ready to receive commands from the ST keyboard. The commands for this debugger are modeled after those of 810 PDU which comes with the ST development system.

Some of the commands accept addresses or data as arguments. Any such address or data may be expressed in the following 3 ways:

As a hex constant (hexvalue--PCW: 40A AB)

As a hex constant preceded by a base number & colon.

The base number (0-7) is only meaningful when applied to addresses in the 8000-8FFF range where bank switching can occur. (hexvalue--0:9A04 5(8000) 2:8000)

As a symbol. A symbol must be preceded by a period (e.g. ".start") and must be found in the programmer's symbol table from the .G file(s) that were downloaded.  
(hexvalue-- .start main loop)

Commands are "soft" when the Ctrl-D is entered and may be edited with backspace before that time. If a command calls for long type-out, the user may suspend/resume the type-out with Ctrl-B/Shift-B (Ctrl/Shift-D) sequences. Striking any other key will cancel a long type-out.

Commands currently available:

"g[xxxx][.yyyy]"

Go (execute) starting from current PC or at optional xxxx address until optional yyyy breakpoint is reached.

"r[PC || A || S || X || B || F || ]"

Observe and change registers command. If the optional register name is omitted, the contents of all registers are displayed. If a register name is given, that register alone is displayed and the user may input a change to the contents of that register. "PC" is a 16 bit value, while "A", "S", "X", "B", and "F" are 8-bit values. "B" is the current bank number and should be in the range 0-7.

"d[xxxx][.yyyy]"

Dump memory starting from last dumped address or optional xxxx address until optional yyyy address

"i[xxxx][.yyyy]"

List (disassemble) memory starting from last listed address or optional xxxx address until optional yyyy address.

"t[w | xxxx]"

Trace (execute) one instruction starting from current PC or if optional count xxxx is entered, trace xxxx program instructions. If the instruction to trace is a JSP, "t[w]" will execute the restart routine called by the JSP and break upon return.

"rxxxx"

Set (change) memory content. The address xxxx to set must be provided.

The current contents of the memory address indicated is displayed and the user may enter a new value or type to the next address with a CR/F. To exit this mode, type a period then CR/F.

#### Example:

```
10000  
0000 02 42  
0000 78 .CR/F  
0000 60 20  
0000 00 .CR/F  
.
```

#### remarks:

```
change memory starting at 0000  
contents 02 changed to 42  
contents 78 left alone  
contents 60 changed to 20  
exit is command
```

^B

Starting sound command. When breaking into an executing program, the sound latches are left in an encoding state. The sounds of silence may be had with the ^B command. Bytes are written to all six sound registers.

^B

^B

Enable or disable display last RII processing while in "targets" mode. A space sign followed by "Y" will force any RII's that occur while the debugger is processing user commands to merely RII with no further processing. "Y" without the space enables RII's in system mode but with 71 cycles of overhead added. When executing the user's program using the GO command, the state of this flag has no effect--RII's will execute normally with no added overhead.

#### Additional notes on debugger use:

If it is desired to break into an executing program on the T800 development system, the user need merely type control-C at the ST keyboard. An IRQ is generated and the program's state can be examined. To resume, simply run over with the "U" command. The IRQ will not work however if the user's program executes an SEI instruction (and interrupt disable). Change all RII's to CLI's while debugging, then when it's time to burn EPROM's, change them back to RII. Since the T800 target system normally has no external IRQ connected, it probably won't hurt to run your program with IRQ enabled anyway. When a running game has been broken into in this way, the main program has stopped, but RII's will continue to be processed. However, 71 cycles of overhead is added to the RII routine which may be unacceptable for some applications. If this is the case, use the ^B command to stop display last processing (RII vector will just point to an RII). To return to the ST's debugger (or command level) while a downloaded game is running, use the CR/F key. This is the way to exit ROM/R800 at any time.

When invoking DLDI-TTF, the command line may include (in addition to the above described list of files to download) the 1st debugger command to be issued after downloading has finished. In this way, it is possible to "load & go" by automatically issuing the "g" command. This initial command should be preceded by a space " " and should be the last item on the command line. An example of the DLDI-TTF command line using this feature:

```
DLDI-TTF file0 file1 file2 -g
```

Occasionally, communications seems to hang up between ST and T800 development spaces. This can often be broken thru the use of ctrl-C. As with any alpha release software, bugs and other anomalies will be present in this, the first release of the Atari 7800 Pro Development System Upgrade, which you will probably discover for yourself. I would like to hear about any problems you may be having or requests for features not found here. You may contact me, Dave Stagnari, at (416) 749-2961.

Now let's get going and create 7800 games that set Nintendo aside!

### THIS PAPER IS:<sup>1</sup>

A One Regabit ROM in the 7400 super cart will be organized as one 16k x 8 space (00000 to 1FFFF) and seven 1k x 8 banks (00000 to 0FFF). Changing banks is achieved by writing to the lower 8 bits in from 00000 to 0FFF with the appropriate bank number.

The data should be organized as follows:

Bank	Data (binary)
0	000
1	001
2	010
3	011
4	100
5	101
6	110
7	111

The 7800 Super Cart is designed for various sizes of film and will support an 8" x 10" print. Below is a jasper chart showing supported configurations of the cartridge.

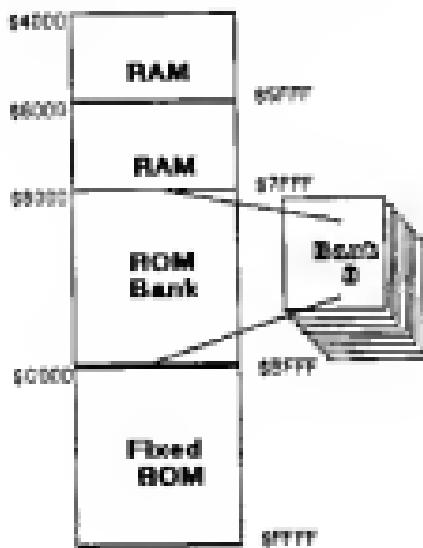
— 10 —

## ANSWER

#### ANSWER

100

## 7800 Cart. Memory Map



## STRUCTURE OF RECORDS

### • RECORDS IN RECORD FORMAT (CODE 8)

Materials data files may begin with a sign-on record which is followed by the code 80. Valid data records start with an 8-character prefix and end with a 2-character suffix. Figure 8-11 demonstrates a series of valid Materials data records.

Each new record begins with the base character '8' followed by a sign-on sequence of sixteen characters. The next

and fourth characters represent the type codes which represent the number of items, address and supervisor bytes in the record. The address of the first data bytes in the record is represented by the last 4 characters of the prefix. Data bytes follow, each measured in 2 hexadecimal characters. The number of data bytes occurring must be 8 less than the type code. The suffix is a hexadecimal character.

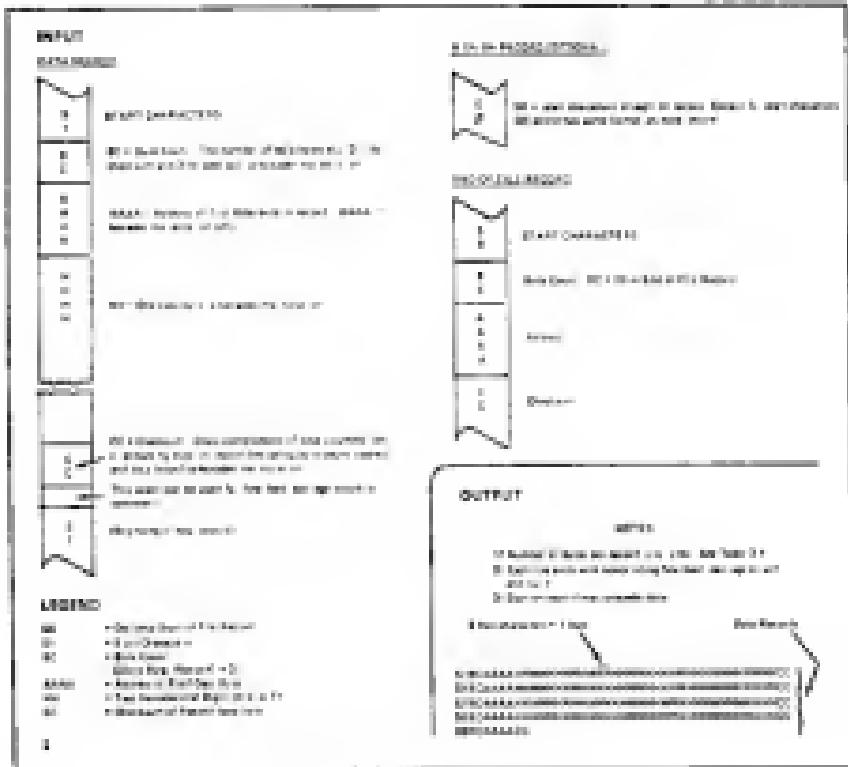


Figure 8-11. Record Structure for Materials Data File.

## NOTES FREQUENCIES FOR AT&amp;T 5000 BOUND SYSTEM

NOTES	10000	1000000	100	10000000	000	10000	1000000
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